



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 17, 2009

Time: 6:00PM

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on:

Interpreters: Jon Henry, and Maureen McEntee

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:05 p.m. the Dept of Administration, Conference Room B

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **In Attendance:** Suzanne Goldenberg, Travis Zellner
- c. **Excused:**

Public Comment: Michelle Florio, school psychologist, asked about the Student Handbook – re rules, regulations, expectations.

July 21, 2009 – make changes as highlighted – Motion made by Suzanne Goldenberg, Seconded by Travis Zellner, approved unanimously.

August 25, 2009 - make changes as highlighted – Motion made by Suzanne Goldenberg, Seconded by Travis Zellner, approved unanimously.

October 20, 2009 – Tabled for next month

It was noted that Suzanne Goldenberg must meet w/Nancy Sousa to go over February 2009 minutes.

Reports:

Chairperson Travis Zellner: noted that he met with Lori and Ken Swanson on 11/2/09 – clarity on communication; memo weekly; will respond directly to Lori. Coordinate communication, establish three-way communication

Coffee hour very productive/positive, good turnout. Meeting w/Rep. Naughton and Commissioner- asked recommendations for RISD – provided her w/expectations of new building; RIDE; Commissioner involved to maximize the building.

Andy Andrade is liaison for recruiting new members for BOT. RIDE's timeline 12/11- written recommendations for nominees; 12/14 start screening and set-up interviews; 12/22 – choose members; Jan 2 to Board of Regents – should have more than two people on BOT by January. The Commissioner's office will do the interviews.

Director Lori Dunsmore report: Working on Integrated Plan – rec'd Budget Report – explain the numbers; dates of Board of Regents' meetings @RIDE on Thursdays. Meeting w/RIDE to be sure on track; share changes; Race to the Top – five priorities; open forum; getting resources; will go to one of the forums representing RISD; will bring information from staff to board, including PD activities that occurred.

NWEA – Northwest Education Assessment – how teachers can improve learning and documenting progress among the students -make correct assessments; Gr 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will start in Fall, and again in the Spring-working on curriculum development, PBGR, alternate assessment – PD needs to match students needs.

Good news – no illness this week. There were 5 confirmed cases of Swine Flu @RISD. Communicate to parents in Parent Newsletter-goal to send before Thanksgiving.

Colleges and universities have come to the school – a broader range of colleges outside of RI.

Travis asked about the clarification between the Integrated Plan and the Statewide Service Plan – Lori noted that she informed the Board of the clarification that it should have been the Integrated Plan..

Ken Swanson – clarified – the Integrated Plan is the overall “umbrella” to all other plans, including Statewide Service Plan, School Improvement Plan, School Support Plan (compliance plan); looking at all services that will compliment RISD.

Travis noted that he was happy to see that staff has input; commissioner will be included in weekly memo.

Assistant Director(s): Corsino Delgado – Budget – targeted amount – backed out stimulus money.....

Travis noted that the board is supposed to review the budget report before it goes to RIDE – Make note: this budget report was not approved by the Board; confirmed that our liability insurance is up-to-date; and questioned the cost of the pager system.

Corsino noted re Fee For Service– line item – difference in what was budgeted and the revised budget; some districts challenging us on Fee For Service– Dave Abbott sent letter to districts clarifying that we are within our rights to bill the districts; if bills are not paid by end of November, we will submit the list of unpaid bills to RIDE. Discussion: bare-boned staff –stimulus money; if we have to cut, lay-offs imminent-state deficit getting worse.

Travis asked that if there are talks of more cuts, let Board know so that they can advocate for RISD; Lori noted that we are looking at Title 1 money and FFS. Travis noted that he would like to participate in budget planning.

Assistant Director: Mary Smith – up-dates on NWEA program – testing students grades 3 thru 12-computer based; report when testing done=school wide data; aligned to other states' standards; has predictors-NECAP test – better to see growth not grade-level based; 4 testing windows. Mary also noted that she is training online with Jeff Rodriguez; installing on computers now; each student will have record of growth and weaknesses; will address with school improvement team; piloting ASL program for K-3. She noted that the Teacher Evaluation Committee is up and running; working with group & contract – aligned to state standard – added 12th std specific & deaf teaching.

Suzanne Goldenberg asked who will be doing evaluations.

Mary Smith answered that the Director, Assistant Director or her designee – will start with non-tenured teachers – will be cycled; develop professional portfolio; there will either be a team or one person observing-depending on contract standards; teachers mentoring teachers.

Mary Smith also noted that we had the school cleaned up and seems to be less sickness; all kids received Swine flu vaccine; She is working on a digital portfolio for PBGR, pulls together all classes; inter-active inc. with graduation process; focusing on Gr. 6-12 this year; next year, elementary; technology is limitless in helping kids keep track of what they are learning; schoolwide transfer from grade to grade.

Mary Pendergast added that they are trying to create a learning community to help grow and develop; Lori noted that this was all included in Integrated Plan.

Mary Pendergast: re IDEA – performance areas need to be in compliance-moving to enhance and improve support & performance; obligation on how we supply compliance; continuous improvement-respond yearly, justify federal funds; comprehensive review in fifth year.

Travis: re BOT & RIDE – ensure all board activities and commission in compliance with the Communications Act – admin responsible for supporting board – re posting

agendas and communications; rotation schedule. Lori noted that after her meeting w/RIDE, she makes progress reports.

Ken Swanson noted to not wait for Board of Regents approval on Integrated Plan, they only meet once a month – don't stop progress – move forward.

Mary Smith: re curriculum – ordered some for Health and P.E.; ongoing conversations with East Bay Collaborative – re science w/strong literacy component; signed a contract with EBC for professional development; getting live animals after February break.

7:10 p.m. – five minute break.....

Personnel committee: nothing to report

Lori discussed the Vision – curriculum for all subjects; Professional development-language planning with Joe Fischgrund and how it applies to students; he has set up a series of workshops. Goal is to present Communication philosophy to board in Spring; process to determine philosophy for language/communication, common methodology.

Lori also noted that they are focusing on 5 areas re Integrated Plan; 1st a Statewide Service Plan – goal 9/2011 for new facility. Re School Improvement – stakeholders involved – develop vision and strategy with Mary Pendergast.

Ken Swanson noted that he spoke with the commissioner who will make the decisions on who will fill the building by September 2011. RISD will be in the new school 9/2010 and get settled – after that RIDE/commissioner will plan what else comes into the new building. We have moved that back from the 2010 deadline; he cautioned that we occupy only the space that we need so that RIDE can assess what space is available.

Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2)

- d. **MOVED Suzanne Goldenberg AND SECONDED Travis Zellner:**
That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 7:40 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- e. **MOVED Suzanne Goldenberg AND SECONDED Travis Zellner:**
That the Board would return to Open Session at 8:00 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- f. **MOVED Suzanne Goldenberg AND SECONDED Travis Zellner:**
That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Motions from Executive Session: None

II. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.